

Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hutchinson  
Hyde  
Inslee  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kasich  
Kelly  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Klecza  
Klink  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kucinich  
Kuykendall  
LaFalce  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Largent  
Larson  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lazio  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBlando  
Lofgren  
Lowey  
Lucas (KY)  
Lucas (OK)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCollum  
McCrery  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHugh  
McIntosh  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Metcalf  
Mica

Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Morella  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Ose  
Oxley  
Packard  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Pastor  
Payne  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickett  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Rangel  
Regula  
Reynolds  
Riley  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogan  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rothman  
Roukema  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Sabo  
Salmon  
Sanchez  
Sandlin  
Sanford  
Sawyer  
Saxton  
Scarborough  
Schaffer  
Schakowsky  
Scott  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano

Sessions  
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Shaw  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shows  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sisisky  
Skeen  
Skeltan  
Slaughter  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Souder  
Spence  
Spratt  
Stabenow  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stenholm  
Strickland  
Stump  
Stupak  
Sununu  
Sweeney  
Talent  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Tauzin  
Taylor (MS)  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thomberry  
Thune  
Thurman  
Tiahrt  
Tierney  
Toomey  
Towns  
Traffant  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Velázquez  
Vento  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Waters  
Watkins  
Watt (NC)  
Watts (OK)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Wexler  
Weygand  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson  
Wise  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

## NAYS—2

Chenoweth

Paul

## NOT VOTING—16

Brady (TX)  
Capps  
Davis (IL)  
Engel  
Ganske  
Hill (IN)

Hinchey  
Kennedy  
Livingston  
McInnis  
Neal  
Owens  
Pickering  
Reyes  
Rush  
Sanders

□ 1151

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 24 on H.R. 438, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, due to business in Colorado, I will be unable to vote on the following bill, H.R. 438. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 22, H.R. 171, and No. 23, H.R. 193, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 438, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

# PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 436, GOVERNMENT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ERROR REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 43 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 436) to reduce waste, fraud, and error in Government programs by making improvements with respect to Federal management and debt collection practices, Federal payment systems, Federal benefit programs, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until

a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 43 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 436, the Government Waste, Fraud and Error Reduction Act of 1999, a bill to reduce waste, fraud and error in government programs by making improvements to the Federal management and debt collection practices, Federal payment systems, and Federal benefit programs.

H. Res. 43 is an open rule, providing 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. The rule waives section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act, prohibiting consideration of legislation providing new budget authority or contract authority for a fiscal year until the budget resolution for that fiscal year has been agreed to against the consideration of the bill.

Section 303 of the Budget Act prohibits consideration of legislation providing new budget authority or contract authority for a fiscal year until the budget resolution for that fiscal year has been agreed to. This is simply a technical waiver. The rule also provides that the bill will be considered as read.

Members who have preprinted their amendments in the RECORD prior to their consideration will be given priority in recognition to offer their amendments if otherwise consistent with House rules.

The rule allows for the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce votes to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

□ 1200

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's failure to collect delinquent debt is costing American taxpayers billions of dollars each year. According to the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Government is owed approximately \$50 billion in delinquent debt, and that is not including taxes. Of that amount, more than \$47 billion has been delinquent over 180 days. The Federal Government also writes off an additional \$10 billion each year.

H.R. 436, the Government Waste, Fraud and Error Reduction Act of 1999, is identical to H.R. 457 that passed the U.S. House of Representatives last year with overwhelming bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the Senate did not take up this legislation. We are bringing the bill back before the American people because we believe it is the right thing to do. This legislation builds on prior Federal debt collection initiatives such as the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 by providing Federal agencies with additional tools to collect their debt collection.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated in the 105th Congress that this legislation would actually save the Federal Government \$14 million over a 4-year period. By forcing agencies to make debt collection a priority and giving them the tools to be successful, this legislation stops the lax attitudes of Federal agencies over the handling of our tax dollars. It is unfortunate that these common sense ideas have to be mandated by Congress in order for Federal agencies to pay attention. The savings generated by this bill is just one part of the billions of dollars that are wasted each and every year by this government.

I am proud of the strides this Congress, the Republican majority, has made to reduce waste, fraud and abuse. We must continue to be vigilant in search of a smaller, smarter government.

In this era of surpluses there have been calls for my colleagues on the left to increase government spending. This legislation conveys the absurdity of those suggestions. I believe it is wrong for the Federal Government to spend more on government programs until it has properly accounted for and been efficient in that which the money has been spent up to now. Taxpayers work hard for the tax dollars they send to Washington, and it is time that we stop throwing their money at problems without demanding proper accountability of those dollars and, more importantly, results which are measurable.

This legislation puts us on the right track. It is not a silver bullet. It does not eliminate waste, fraud and error in the government. Rather, it is a tool to help government deal more carefully with that problem.

I urge my colleagues to pass this fair, open rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), for yielding me the time.

This is an open rule. It will allow full and fair debate. As my colleague from Texas has described, this rule provides for 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform.

The rule also permits amendments under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House of Representatives. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer amendments.

This bill establishes new procedures for agencies to collect debts owed to the Federal Government, and according to the Congressional Budget Office the bill would increase collections by millions of dollars over the next 5 years.

The bill is identical to H.R. 4857 which passed the House by voice vote last year, and earlier this month the Committee on Government Reform passed H.R. 436 by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, improving the ability to collect debts owed to the government is a goal that we all can support. I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Government Waste, Fraud and Error Reduction Act. One of the reasons I chose to enter politics 5½ weeks ago is because I wanted to put an end to the wasteful practices of our government, and I am here to work with the other 432 Members to get that done. I was stunned to learn that the Federal Government is owed over \$50 billion, \$50 billion, and that is not including taxes.

Mr. Speaker, this act seeks to improve the debt collection abilities of the Federal Government. This bill gets tough on government debtors, prohibiting delinquent debtors from obtaining any Federal permit or license until their debt is repaid. It withholds Social Security benefits from those who owe past-due child support. The government will no longer be in the business of rewarding such debtors.

In addition, the bill allows the government to contract out debt collection services to private agencies. What a concept. This practice has proven to be an effective measure in closing difficult cases in the private sector. We ought to use it in the public.

Mr. Speaker, the ability to collect on any debt, either public or private, is a fundamental component of our econ-

omy and legal system. The taxpayer deserves the same protections as private citizens when a loan is extended by the Federal Government. As we eliminate waste and fraud, we will have more money to spend on education, on Social Security, on national defense or health care.

Let us pass this bill. Let us begin saving the taxpayers' money. Let us make a difference.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 436 and the rule, the Government Waste, Fraud and Error Reduction Act.

Since 1995, Congress has worked diligently to send Federal money back to the States and communities, but Congress also has the responsibility to ensure that our tax dollars are spent wisely. We have trimmed the size of the Federal Government, reined in excessive spending and eradicated redundant programs. We have a balanced budget for the first time in 30 years and a budget surplus of \$70 billion in 1998, with the prediction that it will be almost \$2.5 trillion over the next 10 years.

The next logical step is to combat fraud, abuse and errors that cost taxpayers their hard-earned money. The Federal Government has more than \$50 billion in delinquent non-tax debts and gives up collecting on about \$10 billion each year. This is government waste at its worst, and for taxpayers this is certainly an outrage.

H.R. 436 is responsible legislation. It collects delinquent debts owed to the government and ensures that benefits do not go to those who are ineligible. It places special emphasis on the worst delinquent debtors, those who owe taxpayers over \$1 million.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it and support the rule. I would like to thank my friend from Long Beach, California, (Mr. HORN) for bringing this legislation to the floor. His commitment to helping our taxpayers and improving the functions of government is to be commended.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LUCAS).

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule. I rise in support of H.R. 436, the Government Waste, Fraud and Error Reduction Act of 1999. The goal of this legislation is to help reduce waste in government programs by improving Federal management of debt and collection practices, payment systems and benefit programs. Like many Kentucky taxpayers, I consider this to be a very worthy goal.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would give Federal agencies additional tools to improve government efficiency and accountability. Agencies would be able to bar delinquent debtors from obtaining certain Federal benefits until the debt is repaid. Agencies would be able to use private debt collection contractors to maximize the collection of overdue nontax debts, and agencies would be required to establish programs to reduce the nontax debts held by the agency and obtain the maximum value for loan and debt assets. In addition, H.R. 436 would help the collection of child support by allowing the offset of Social Security benefits to a recipient who owes past-due support to the State.

People who work hard and play by the rules should not have to pick up the tab for deadbeat dads and others who will not pay their debts. As individuals, we are expected to pay our debts. As a Nation, we expect efficiency and accountability from the agencies that have been created to serve us. It is important to give those agencies the tools to do the job that we require of them. Therefore, I urge passage of H.R. 436.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to once again reinforce what is occurring here today. We are joining with the minority to talk about a very important issue. This is a bipartisan-supported bill. It makes sense for taxpayers. It makes sense for all of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 409, FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 75 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 75

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 409) to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, and improve the delivery of services to the public. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill

and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 75 is an open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 409, a bill to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, and improve the delivery of services to the public.

H. Res. 75 is an open rule providing 1 hour of general debate, divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority of the Committee on Government Reform.

The rule provides that each section of the bill shall be considered as read. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I recently joined with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, to high-

light the waste from overlapping and duplication in our Federal Government. We used one simple example to illustrate the billions of dollars that are wasted each year, what we call the pizza example. Currently, if a company produces pizza with meat toppings, the USDA is responsible for inspecting the plant. If, however, a company produces cheese pizza, it is the FDA's responsibility.

As amazing as it seems to have two different bureaucracies for each topping on pizza in your refrigerator, consider the fact that there are 12 different Federal agencies that oversee food safety in this country. Does that sound like an efficient system to you? We think not. It sounds like to me, on the one hand, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing and, consequently, taxpayers are left holding the bag for this inefficiency.

Unfortunately, it does not end just with pizzas. There are currently over 600 different Federal financial assistance programs to implement domestic policy. Report after report has shown that the Federal administrative requirements are duplicative, burdensome or conflicting, which impedes the cost-effective delivery of services at the local level. Every dollar wasted complying with this bureaucratic red tape removes precious funds and resources from those programs' noble goals of feeding the poor or providing health care or other services to American citizens.

H.R. 409, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, aims to improve the delivery of much-needed services by streamlining and simplifying the Federal financial assistance administrative procedures and reporting requirements. Identical legislation, S. 1642, passed the Senate in the 105th Congress.

The bill is simple and straightforward. It requires Federal agencies to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative and reporting requirements; develop a uniform grant application for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic grant applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of this act.

Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of such plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to Congress and could be included as part of other managed reports as required by law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, the Office of Management and Budget, known as OMB, would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs.